

FREE

"Resistance Conspiracy"
Prisoners

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Ecomedia

B U L L E T I N

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SQUAT THE LOT

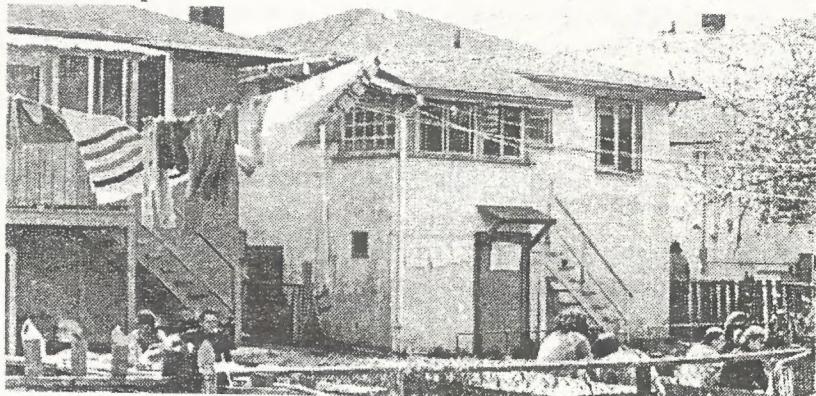
Vancouver Squatters Organize Communal Space

Vancouver, like many other major urban centres in advanced capitalist countries, has been undergoing increasing levels of gentrification and development. As property speculation increases, as the upper middle classes expand and as land-owners seek profits by catering to this increasingly growing market, cheap low rental housing becomes scarcer. Already the vacancy rate in Vancouver is .03%. Evictions have become common with entire city blocks cleared, demolished and all too frequently high-income condominiums built.

The situation in Vancouver differs from many other cities in that there isn't the usual contradiction of homelessness and vast amounts of empty housing, from which squatter communities have been able to build on and organise around. However, even in this limited space, opportunities are presented.

Since the beginning of March 1990 four houses in one city block slated for demolition at the end of May, have been squatted by 15-20 squatters. Unlike other squats in Vancouver, these four houses, located in the East End of Vancouver, have begun publicly organizing and employing meth-

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Some of the houses squatters have occupied in Vancouver

IT'S OFFICIAL!

CANADA VIOLATES LUBICON HUMAN RIGHTS

The United Nations Human Rights Committee has ruled that Canada has violated the UN Charter on Human Rights in their treatment of the Lubicon Lake Nation. The ruling was in response to a 1984 appeal by the Nation that their way of life was being destroyed by oil and gas development on their lands, and, although it's not legally binding, it does amount to a black eye for

Canada.

Meanwhile, the federally-created Woodland Cree band has apparently signed an "Agreement in Principle" (AIP) with the federal government. The agreement apparently covers community construction but doesn't cover economic development or reserve lands. The feds claim the Woodland band contains about 150 ex-Lubicons

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VANCOUVER SQUATTERS

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ods of self-management. Attempts at communal living have been made, with community re-cycling bins, free stores, communal laundry services and the fences which separated the yards of the houses have been dismantled. A regular feature of the squats has been meetings, to solve internal problems, particularly sexism, as well as discussions on the various perspectives of squatting as an action. Amongst the four houses there is also a wimmins squat, with wimmin only, a space in which they can feel their own self-empowerment and security from the typical sexist attitudes of too many men. As in any squatters group there has been a divi-

sion over squatting as an action. One tendency sees it as a form of protest to secure more affordable housing while the other feels it is an act of taking control of part of ones' life and attacking the capitalist concept of rent and property.

For the first month, all of this took place under the noses of the developer, Ning Yee Int'l Marketing Ltd. Once the company became of the squats they demanded a rental fee and negotiations began. The squatters offered to pay \$1 per squatter a day but this was rejected by the developer and they demanded that they leave. On April 16th, the deadline for eviction, a "Squatters Jamboree"

took place with over a hundred people attending. No doubt if the developers had shown up they would have been deterred by this show of solidarity from the local community. The squatters, in fact, had gone door to door in the neighbourhood and had received unanimous support including from local tenants rights groups.

As of April 28 the squats still remain and some of the squatters have started the Squatters Alliance of Vancouver East (SAVE). They plan on making a registry of empty houses and encouraging others to occupy them. SAVE can be contacted at: P.O. Box 69601, Stn.K, Vancouver, B.C., V5K 4W7. (Echomedia Vancouver)

Lubicon Update

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and is hinting that therefore they'll have to reduce their already useless compensation offer to the Lubicon band due to decreased membership. No one knows where they got the 150 number from, since they still refuse to release band lists for the Woodland Cree.

The new band, created specifically under the archaic and racist section 17 of the Indian Act to disrupt and interfere with the Lubicon Nation's just claim, has since run into unexpected snags when it was unanimously refused recognition by the Chiefs of Treaty 8. Treaty 8 covers an enormous area completely surrounding the traditional Lubicon territory, and as such these chiefs know what Indian Nations have traditionally oc-

cupied the area.

The Agreement in Principle is just one more step in a government campaign to discredit and undermine the Lubicon Nation. Sadly enough, even for the Woodland Cree it's unlikely to amount to a fair deal. "An agreement in principle with an unprincipled government", said Lubicon advisor Fred Lennarson, "is worth about the same thing as no agreement at all with people who have principles."



Pollution Produces Profits

USA-Firms that pollute the environment here get off with paying an average of 37% of their original fines, and in 19 cases out of 20 fines against flagrant industrial polluters didn't cover the company's financial gain from disobeying the law," according to an Environmental Protection Agency official. Meanwhile, Louisiana police have refused to press charges against the driver of a logging truck who deliberately forced the car of an Earth First member off the road, hospitalizing four small children. During the last 200 years, 97% of the USA's virgin forests have been cut down, and Congressmen from the Pacific Northwest are preventing Congress from protecting the remaining 3%. (Earth Island Journal, Spring 1990.)

Political Prisoner Denied Adequate Medical Care

Dr. Alan Berkman, anti-imperialist political prisoner, is once again struggling to get proper medical treatment which has been denied to him by the U.S. government. After his arrest in May 1985, Alan developed Hodgkins disease (a form of cancer), which required treatment at a proper medical facility. At that time he was being held in preventative detention at a facility unequipped to treat his condition. It was only after outside pressure and a court decision that he was transferred to a cancer treatment centre where he underwent abdominal surgery. This occurred under extremely stressful conditions with highly militarized security and Alan ended up having emergency surgery 5 days later. After this he was prematurely discharged from the prison hospital despite medical complications. Finally after many problems and setbacks the cancer went into remission.

Since then he has fought to get proper medical follow-ups and testing. On March 19, 1990 Alan received testing that showed the possibility of a recurrence of Hodgkins disease. Nonetheless the doctor stated that nothing was wrong and no follow-up would be needed until August. Another doctor was convinced to recheck the test and concluded that there was a possibility that the cancer was back. Despite this no efforts have been made for Alan to receive any follow-up or treatment.

Alan Berkman is one of six defendants in the Resistance Conspiracy Case, accused of the political bombings of government and military buildings. The U.S. government makes no claims to know who carried out these

bombings. It is simply trying to convict them on "guilt by political association" because they shared a "common purpose" of resisting U.S. imperialism. Linda Evans, Tim Blunk, Laura Whitehorn, Marilyn Buck, Susan Rosenberg and Alan Berkman are revolutionaries who have struggled for years as part of a clandestine resistance movement. By resisting the policies of the U.S. government, that has included the invasion of Grenada, the brutal colonial rule of Puerto Rico, supporting the Contras in Nicaragua and giving aid to the ARENA government in El Salvador, these six have suffered extreme repression. The U.S. government is using any means possible to eliminate resistance and the denial of proper medical care to Alan Berkman is just one aspect of this.

People are encouraged to write letters/telegrams of protest to:

David Road, Administrator
D.C. Central Detention Facility
1901 D Street, S.E.
Washington, D.C.
20003 USA
Phone Number: (202) 673 8202

Send letters and cards of support/solidarity to:

Dr. Alan Berkman c/o
Washington Area Committee For
Political Prisoner's Rights
P.O. Box 28191
Washington, D.C.
20038-8191 USA

EARTH NIGHT

In contrast to the corporate/political Earth Day events which took all real meaning away from "environmentalism", Earth First! groups in the States called for Earth Night on April 22nd. In Santa Cruz, California, three main power lines were cut down by the Earth Night Action Group, blacking out the city. In a communique delivered the next day, the group claimed they did the actions to protest against Pacific Gas and Electric for their development of nuclear power, their "fraudulent support of global protection, and also to protest their hypocritical attempt to improve public relations. If PGE's commitment to the earth were real, the Diablo canyon nuclear power plant would be shut down."

PGE officials admitted the group "knew what they were doing", and have offered a \$20,000 reward for their capture. A fourth line was shot out with a shotgun, though as of yet no one has claimed responsibility for it.

Elsewhere, forestry companies in California pulled machinery out of the woods and put extra security around mills in preparation for expected actions on Earth Night, though as of yet we've received no reports of damage to forestry equipment in that area.

In San Francisco, thirteen Earth First! activists were arrested on the morning of April 24 for climbing the Golden Gate bridge to hang a banner. The arrests resulted in 4 misdemeanor charges. The action, planned for Earth Day, was unsuccessful; the banner, which was never hung, said "Defend Ancient Forests — No to Fossil Fuels." — Earth First!

In El Salvador, unions are supporting a U.S. national boycott of Salvadoran coffee, launched by the San Francisco-based national group Neighbour-to-Neighbour. In February, Frisco longshoremen honoured a picket line by refusing to unload Salvadorean coffee; after futile attempts to unload the coffee at other west coast ports, it was sent back to El Salvador. The boycott, which stems from various murders committed by the rightwing Salvadoran military over the last decade, is potentially effective because 60% of Salvadoran coffee is exported to the USA, but comprises only 5% of coffee consumed in the USA. So, if you must drink coffee, try to make sure that what you buy isn't from El Salvador. (Latin American Connexions, April-May 1990.)

SOUTH AMHERST, MASS-87 residents here have secured summer-long access to fresh loads of vegetables, herbs and fruits by buying shares of a farm's yearly harvest. There are now about thirty Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farms in various parts of the USA, with shares costing from \$350 per person to \$1,000 for a family membership; comparable organic produce on the retail market often costs 50% more. A variant is subscription farming, in which the farm harvests food weekly and delivers it to subscribers. (Utne Reader, May-June 1990.)

USA-In the past two decades, Neighbourhood Commons Corporations have built about fifty neighbourhood commons in various cities here, using volunteer labour and scavenged materials. Those built in conjunction with subsidized housing projects,

A REGULAR FEATURE ON ANARCHY IN ACTION

Mutual Aid



settlement houses, churches or in areas where there was significant home ownership generally survived. In Louisville, several community projects were started after a "Louisville Barnraising" divided several hundred citizens into small "Discover and Match" groups, in which people who had needs were given the opportunity to meet with those who had resources. Staging massive restoration events as inspiring celebrations of community can be effective. (Earth Island Journal, Spring 1990.)

DENMARK-Cops here have rendered over 70 people homeless by evicting them from four buildings they were squatting, the "Black House" co-operative, and smashing the buildings. There are rumoured plans to evict the larger "Christiana" squatters' settlement which has housed over 900 people in 18 years. The squatters, along with local city movements, continue to work for free space in which they can create small cafes, small craftsman-businesses and small homes; they claim the right to make small villages.

Ecomedia Toronto

Ecomedia is an international "wire service" that acts as an alternative to regular news services. We focus on news and often censored information on autonomous and anarchist resistance and analysis of current events.

Ecomedia Toronto is a local office involved in three main projects: a radio show every Wednesday on CKLN 88.1 FM between 7 and 8 pm on the "Word of Mouth" program; also another radio spot at 12:15am on CIUT 89.5 FM; and the bulletin in your hands. Published bi-weekly and free at locations around the city; subscriptions are \$15/yr (26 issues) mailed monthly to cut costs. Order from the address on the front with

Polish Anarchists Appeal for Funds

Due to limited access to printing facilities, the Polish Anarchist Federation has put out an appeal for money. Printing is monopolized by the State printing offices and the print shops owned by the Catholic, pro-capitalist opposition, neither of whom is particularly interested in furthering the anarchist cause. Consequently, the anarchist press in Poland is badly produced and issue irregularly. It needs funds to purchase its own press.

Send any contribution to the giro account: CCP Rey 306404 G, Nantes. Cheques, 44000 Nantes, France. Further information is available from the Polish Anarchist Federation representative in France, Marcin Rey, c/o Christian Veron, 6 Rue de Hauts Paves, 44000 Nantes,

For information on upcoming events of interest to the anarchist or activist community call the anarchist hotline, 535-5731.